1940-2010 How Has America Changed?

Then & Now

The 1940 Census came at a momentous time in our Nation's history-as we recovered from the Great Depression and not long before our entry into World War II. It was also the first Census that looked deeper into the details of much of American life. Now, 72 years later, upon release of the 1940 Census forms by the National Archives, we look back and see just how much America changed.

1940 Population 132.2 MILLION 2010 Population 308.7 MILLION

Nearly 1 in 6 of the people counted in the 1940 Census were also counted in the 2010 Census.

5 MOST POPULATED STATES

The overall U.S. population growth has shifted south and west, with Texas and Florida now amongst the most populous states.

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

1940 Population California 6.9 MILLION Illinois 7.9 MILLION Ohio 6.9 MILLION Pennsylvania 9.9 MILLION New York 13.4 MILLION

2010 Population
California 37.2 MILLION
Texas 25.1 MILLION
Florida 18.8 MILLION
Illinois 12.8 MILLION
New York 19.3 MILLION
In 1940, AK and HI were included as territories

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

As we've grown we've also become more diverse.

Population by Race 1940 89.8% White 9.8% Black 0.4% Other

2010

72.4% White Alone 12.6% Black or African American alone 4.8% Asian Alone 0.9% American Indian & Alaskan Native alone

0.2% Some Other Race Alone

2.9% Two or More Races

Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin 16.3% Hispanic of Latino 83.7% Not Hispanic or Latino

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

EDUCATION

Improved access to education means far more people today are college graduates

1940

5% of population with Bachelors Degree 5.5% of Males 25+who are college grads 3.8% of Females 25+ who are college grads

2010

28% of Population with Bachelors Degree 28.5% of Males 25+ who are college grads 27.9% of Females 25+ who are college grads

EARNINGS

Women still make less money in the workplace than men...but the wage gap is shrinking. 1940 \$956 Median Income for Men 2010 \$33,276 Median Income for Men 1940 \$592 Median Income for Women` 2010 \$24,157 Median Income for Women 1940 Women earned 62 cents for each dollar a man earned 2010 Women earned 74 cents for each dollar a man earned

TOP INDUSTRIES

Our workforce and industries have changed dramatically over time.

1940

45,166,083 Employees

2010

139,033,928 Employees

1940

23.4% Manufacturing 18.5% Agriculture 14.0% Retail Trade

8.9% Personal Services

7.4% Professional & Related Services

2010

23.2% Educational services, health care & social assistance

11.7% Retail Trade

10.6% Professional, scientific, management & administrative services, waste management services

10.4% Manufacturing

6.2% Construction

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

HOUSING

The average American home in 1940 was much different than its modern counterpart.

1940

\$30.83 Average monthly rent, urban

\$18.35, Average monthly rent, rural, non-farm

78.9% had an outside toilet, rural-farm

17.7% had running water, rural-farm

31.3% had electric light, rural-farm

2010

\$855 Median monthly rent and utilities

\$1496 Median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners

99.4% had complete plumbing

97.5% had telephone service

57.1% had two or more vehicles

MARITIAL STATUS

Even the terms we use to determine who's single and who's married have changed over time.

1940

Never Married

Male (15-19) 98.3%

Female (15-19) 88.1%

Male (20-34) 43.9%

Female (20-34) 28.9%

Married

Male (15-19) 1.7%

Female (15-19) 11.6%

Male (20-34) 54.8%

Female (20-34) 68.0%

2010

Never Married

Male (15-19) 99.2%

Female (15-19) 98.3%

Male (20-34) 65.6%

Female (20-34) 55.6%

Married Male (15-19) 0.8% Female (15-19) 1.6% Male (20-34) 30.8% Female (20-34) 39.2%

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census